

# LAS VEGAS



NEVADA

A PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
RANDA BISHOP

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# LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

A PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT

Traveling with Spanish traders on their way to California in the early 1700's, Rafael Rivera was the first to stumble across an oasis in the middle of Nevada's stark and sizzling desert valley with bubbling, natural springs and tall, wild grasses. The valley was named "Las Vegas," Spanish for "The Meadows."

By 1905, the town of Las Vegas, with a population of eight-hundred, was founded. Six years later, the Nevada state legislature passed a landmark law legalizing gambling, and Las Vegas was well on its way to becoming the "Entertainment Capital of the World."

*Las Vegas: A Photographic Portrait* portrays the many moods of Las Vegas, as well as other Nevada attractions. Treasures and delights of the biggest resorts on The Strip, along with breathtaking views of Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and Red Rock Canyon are captured by the creative lens of Randa Bishop.







# LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



A PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT

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This One



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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

(opposite)

**Cathedral Gorge State Park**

One of the more beautiful areas in Nevada, this high-desert park is known for its astonishing geological formations. Imposing spires and pillars were sculpted as water ran over clay in a lake bed millions of years ago.

(jacket front)

The grounds of the MGM Grand. (page 19)

(jacket back, clockwise)

Mormon Temple at Sunrise Mountain. (page 80)

Valley of Fire, Nevada State Park. (page 119)

Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. (page 61)

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Traveling with Spanish traders on their way to California in the early 1800's, Rafael Rivera was the first to stumble across an oasis in the middle of Nevada's stark and sizzling desert valley with bubbling, natural springs and tall, wild grasses. The valley was named "Las Vegas," Spanish for "The Meadows."

By 1905, the town of Las Vegas, with a population of eight-hundred, was founded. Some years later, the Nevada state legislature passed two landmark laws, legalizing gambling and liberalizing divorce laws so that "quickie" divorces could be acquired after six weeks of residency. Awaiting their freedom, these short-term residents stayed at dude ranches, the forerunners of the hotels that populate The Strip today.

The race was on to create the best casinos and accommodations in Las Vegas. Exciting in

their day, Las Vegas hot spots like The Sands, and Sahara became synonymous with Frank Sinatra and his very hip Rat Pack.

The invention of neon signs in the 1940's gave Las Vegas a dazzling, new way to flaunt its attractions. Soon, brilliantly illuminated signs, each bigger and brighter than the next, decorated The Strip, beckoning motorists from miles away.

Since the wild days of the 1950's and '60's, Las Vegas has matured into a sophisticated playground. Luxurious mega-resorts continue to draw tourists in new and imaginative ways with massive casinos where lady luck has never looked more appealing and quality shows include some of the most talented entertainers in the world.

Away from the whirl of casinos and bright lights, photographer Randa Bishop also captures the slower pace of Las Vegas' surrounding areas. Beautiful images of Paiute Indian dancers and panoramas of fabulous Red Rock Canyon are just some of the many jewels that Nevada has to offer.

*Las Vegas: A Photographic Portrait* portrays the many moods of Las Vegas as well as other Nevada attractions as seen through the lens of Randa Bishop. Treasures and delights of the biggest resorts on The Strip along with breathtaking views of Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and Red Rock Canyon are captured by the creative lens of Randa Bishop.



**Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas**

Created by Betty Willis in 1959, this famous neon landmark has been welcoming visitors for over 4 decades.



#### **New York-New York Hotel**

Billed as the "greatest city in Las Vegas," New York-New York Hotel & Casino re-creates highlights of the Big Apple's skyline including the Empire State Building, Chrysler Building, Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, and Grand

Central Terminal. Inside the resort, areas and meeting rooms are named after New York neighborhoods, and the Village Eateries food court is reminiscent of Greenwich Village.





#### Manhattan Express

Featuring the world's first heartline twist and dive maneuver, the Manhattan Express at New York-New York Hotel & Casino pays tribute to the famous Coney Island roller coaster. This white-knuckle ride boldly travels through both

the hotel's interior and exterior. The coaster's cars are brightly painted to emulate the yellow checker cabs once found on the streets of the Big Apple.





#### Lower Manhattan

New York-New York Hotel & Casino celebrates lower Manhattan with an impressive 150-foot replica of the Statue of Liberty and the historic Ellis Island building, complete with fireboats in New York Harbor.



*(above and opposite)*

#### **The Paris Las Vegas Hotel**

Las Vegas celebrates with international flair. The majestic Paris Las Vegas Hotel features impressive replicas of the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe. The hotel offers authentic French shops and markets that create a true European ambi-

ance, while the ornate fountains of the hotel's exterior make this one of the most beautiful and romantic locations on The Strip.





(top)

#### The Golden Gate Hotel

In 1906, one year after a land auction created Las Vegas, the forerunner of today's Golden Gate Hotel on Fremont Street opened for business. The delicious, bargain-price shrimp cocktails, have been a tradition since 1959.

(bottom)

#### Smith & Wollensky's Grill

In 1998, an old-fashioned tradition was transplanted to Las Vegas from New York. The reputable white-and-green Smith and Wollensky's steakhouse has since become one of Las Vegas' favorite eateries.





**House of Blues at Mandalay Bay**

Music lovers come to Mandalay Bay's legendary House of Blues nightclub to enjoy an eclectic mix of live performances from hard rock to New Age. Dine here any night, and enjoy a southern gospel brunch on Sunday.





(opposite, top)

#### **Luxor Hotel and Mandalay Bay**

The twinkling lights in the surrounding communities on the outskirts of the Las Vegas Strip vividly showcase the massive dimensions of Sin City's mega-resorts.

(opposite, bottom)

#### **Mandalay Bay Hotel Monorail**

Monorails make it easy to zip around The Strip without having to bother with driving and parking. Three different monorail systems run nearly around the clock, moving people from one hotel to the next.

(above)

#### **Mandalay Bay**

Hip, fun and imaginative, Mandalay Bay Resort was an instant success with its elegant amenities, quirky, massive statues, and a fabulous walk-thru aquarium with a scary shark tunnel.







(opposite)

#### **The Inscrutable Sphinx**

An architectural marvel in the shape of a thirty-story, black-glass pyramid, the Luxor is a lavish, Egyptian-theme resort. It is guarded by a ten-story sphinx and features a replica of King Tut's tomb and the world's largest atrium inside.

(above)

#### **Night Light**

Like a strange, mystical light reaching from the ancient Egyptian past into uncharted galaxies, the Luxor's cool, blue beam cuts the night sky with the world's brightest beam of light, visible from as far away as Los Angeles.



(top)

#### **Fiori di Como**

Created by renowned glass artist, Dale Chihuly, Fiori di Como adorns the ceiling in the Bellagio's grand lobby. Two-thousand, hand-blown, glass flowers cascade above in a profusion of shape and color.

(bottom)

#### **Bellagio Flower Garden**

The Bellagio Hotel's Conservatory and Botanical Gardens change with the seasons. Experience rows of fragrant and colorful exotic plants and flowers just beyond the lobby.





#### Regal Opulence

The Bellagio's fabulous fountains dance, dazzle and delight with a display of water, music and light, choreographed to classical or whimsical melodies that float through the warm evening air.



(above)

#### King of The Jungle

The MGM Grand Hotel is famous for the 45-foot-tall, bronze lion that lords over the entrance atop a two-story pedestal. Inside, real lions prowl above and below a transparent walkway tunnel in the Habitat.

(opposite)

#### Golden Atlas

The grounds of the MGM Grand display water fountains and Atlas-themed statues. The mega-resort's Grand Garden Arena hosts top concerts, championship boxing, premier sporting events and seats over 17,000.





*(above)*

#### **Living Statue at Grand Canal Shoppes**

Talented street performers serenade and living statues are a wonderment in St. Mark's Square. Grand Canal Shoppes at the Venetian is filled with boutiques and sidewalk cafés.

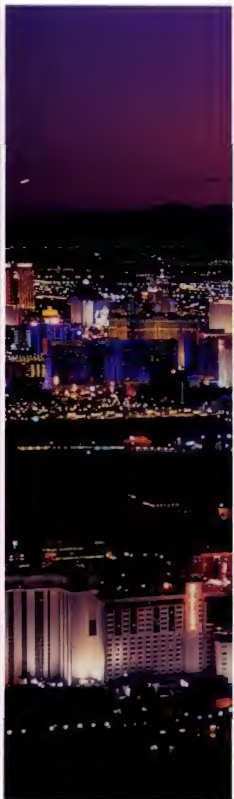
*(opposite)*

#### **The Venetian Hotel**

This four-diamond luxury resort resonates with the charm and culture of Venice including canals, gondolas, and singing gondoliers. Off the water, take your chances at the posh casino and dine at exquisite eateries.





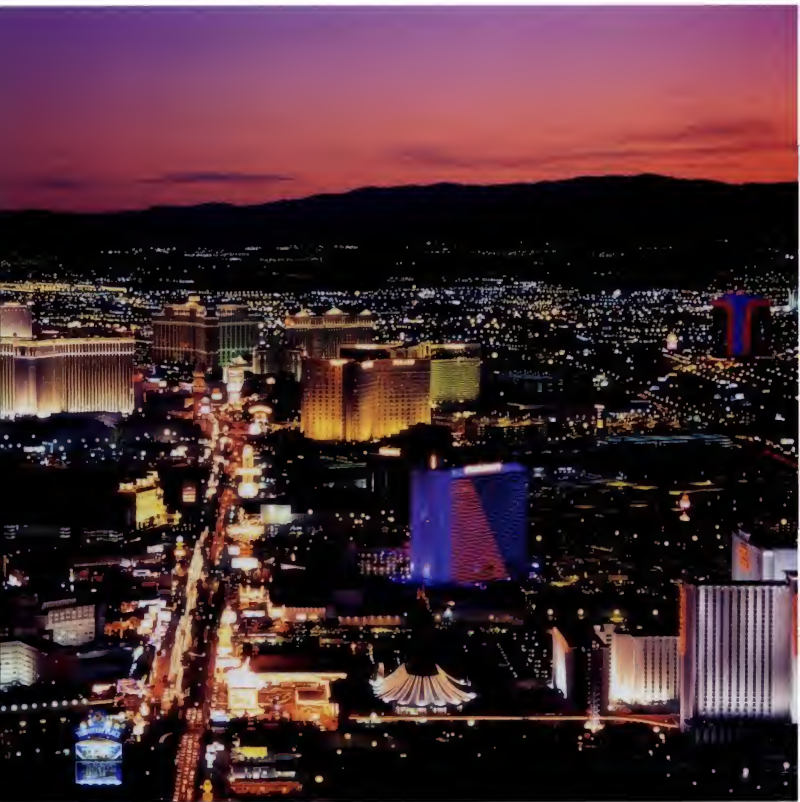


#### The Stratosphere Tower

The top of Las Vegas' tallest structure is packed with exciting attractions for all ages. The world's three highest thrill rides drop riders with g-force speeds, dangle them over the edge and spin them in circles at forty miles per hour.

For a slower pace, you can enjoy a relaxing dinner at the revolving restaurant and step out on the observation deck to enjoy breathtaking, panoramic views.





#### **The Jewel of the Desert**

The view from the Stratosphere Tower is a dazzling panorama of color and light. There are approximately 124,000 hotel rooms in Las Vegas. Hotels host some 3800 conventions annually.



(above)

#### **The New Sahara Hotel and Casino**

One of the first modern hotels in Las Vegas, the Sahara opened its doors in the 1950's. Many world-class entertainers have performed there, such as Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, Johnny Carson, Tina Turner and The Beatles.

(opposite)

#### **Harrah's Hotel and Casino**

In the heart of The Strip, the luxurious Harrah's Hotel and Casino is a great place for live entertainment with The Improv Comedy Club and magic acts.





#### The Orleans Hotel

Mardi Gras is celebrated every day at this New Orleans-themed hotel. Two miles west of The Strip, it has spacious rooms, a busy casino, hot, live entertainment, a movie cineplex, and a top-rated bowling center.



#### **The Excalibur Hotel**

A white, turreted castle with a legendary King Arthur theme complete with knights in shining armor, the Excalibur Hotel Casino has a medieval village and a dinner theater with dragons, wizards, sword fights and jousting tournaments.





#### Casino Royale

The Casino Royale caters to low rollers with low table minimums for roulette, craps, and blackjack. Geared toward novice gamblers, and is the only casino in town with 100-times-odds on craps at all times.



#### The Ponte Vecchio Bridge

The Mediterranean-style Ritz Carlton-Las Vegas devised a beautiful way to span the lake's 375-foot inner harbor. The bridge, named after the famous one in Florence, Italy, was built to house 350 extremely desirable hotel rooms.



(above)

#### **Nike, Greek Goddess of Victory**

Caesars Palace was one of the first resorts to lavishly execute a major theme, including reproductions of famous Greek and Roman statuary, such as this magnificent *Winged Victory of Samothrace* statue.

(opposite)

#### **Sphinx**

At a second entrance to Caesars Palace, a smiling sphinx tops a cascading fountain. The Greek mythological sphinx strangled all who could not answer her riddle, but when Oedipus answered correctly, she took her own life.







#### Julius Caesar

Clad in classic Roman robes, the Emperor Julius Caesar is a formidable sight. Caesars Palace is decorated with many statues of ancient Roman gods and goddesses some of which were imported from Italy.



#### Trumpeting Angels

Cabana motel owner Jay Sarno began plans for the 14-story hotel in 1962. He decided to name it *Caesars Palace* because it evoked a sense of royalty and guests should feel as if they had been invited for a stay at a king's palace.



(top)

#### **The Mirage Volcano**

This signature Las Vegas attraction erupts six times a night, spewing smoke and fire one-hundred feet above the water. By day, a tranquil waterfall hides the sleeping volcano.

(bottom)

#### **Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat**

At the Mirage's acclaimed dolphin habitat, visitors are invited to be the "Trainer for the Day" and work side-by-side with the official trainers. Interacting with these gentle creatures can be an exhilarating and almost spiritual experience.

(opposite)

#### **Siegfried and Roy**

The Mirage Hotel and Casino is home to Siegfried and Roy's amazing Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, a tropical habitat built as a home for the famed duo's beloved animals, including a pair of rare, white tigers.







#### View from The Hard Rock Hotel

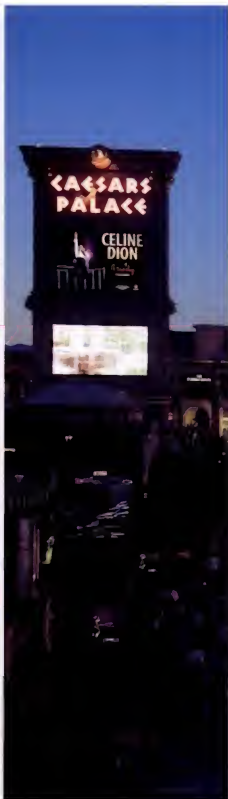
The view from the Hard Rock Hotel shows a vibrant city thriving in a barren desert. The Hard Rock Hotel is home to more than six-hundred pieces of rock-n-roll memorabilia.





#### The Hard Rock Cafe

With a 45-foot neon Gibson Les Paul guitar at the entrance, Las Vegas' Hard Rock Café demands attention and keeps patrons rockin' with great musical acts and a special "Viva Las Vegas" wall of Elvis memorabilia.



(top)

#### Bally's Las Vegas

A Las Vegas tradition, Bally's is known for its exceptional service, deluxe rooms, fine restaurants, casino, and Dorn Arden's Jubilee, one of the most critically acclaimed revues in the city.

(bottom)

#### Bally's Monorail Station

Casino-hopping is a snap with Las Vegas' monorails. Bally's is one of seven stops on the Las Vegas Monorail that connects MGM Grand on one end to the Sahara Hotel on the other. It runs virtually non-stop, just like the city.



#### Sunset on The Strip

As night falls on Sin City, sidewalks bustle with tourists. Neon signs beckon with every pleasure imaginable. Seventeen of the twenty largest hotels in the United States are in Las Vegas; over 38.5 million people fill them annually.



#### The Stratosphere Tower

At 1,149-feet-tall, the Stratosphere Tower takes the Las Vegas skyline to new heights with thrill rides at the top and a spectacular dancing light show nightly that can be seen all over the valley.



(above)

#### The Wild Frontier

The New Frontier Hotel and Casino has a wild side known as Gilley's Bar where "the beer is cold and the girls are dirty." Bikini-clad women ride the mechanical bull, while others wrestle in the mud.

(following page)

#### Sin City

Hotels and mega-resorts continue for miles in either direction along the Las Vegas Strip. The first casino was licensed in 1931 and, currently, there are over 1,700 licensed gambling places in the city.













(opposite)

#### The Modern Wine Cellar

Aureole Restaurant features award-winning cuisine and a forty-two-foot tower that holds a thousand bottles of the very best wines.

(top)

#### Swan Court at The Aureole

The Aureole Restaurant is a posh eatery located at Mandalay Bay. The celebrated restaurant has a comfortable ambience with an intimate dining area that overlooks a pool and fountain.

(bottom)

#### Wine Angel

At Aureole's, filling a request for wine is a high-wire act. Wine stewards step into a harness and are hoisted up the wine tower. This Vegas showmanship is actually very efficient—just ten seconds to the chosen bottle.



*(above and opposite)*

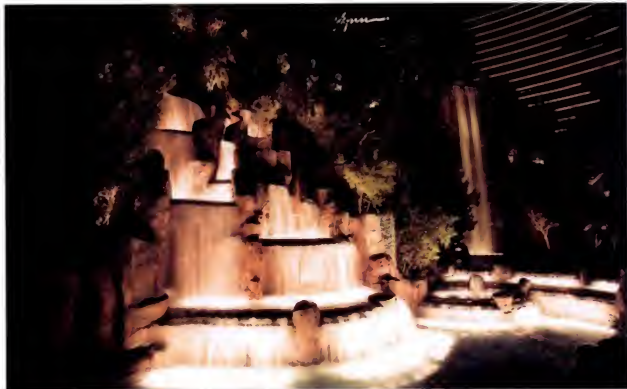
#### **The Forum Shops at Caesars Palace**

Glistening below a painted, blue-domed sky is what many consider to be the best selection of shops in the city. Decorated with ornate Italian fountains and statuary, the piazza-style mall combines designer boutiques with favorites

like Banana Republic and Guess and sprinkles great eateries in between. Caesars Palace epitomizes the best of Las Vegas and the golden days of the Roman Empire.







(top)

#### Wynn Las Vegas Resort

Noted developer of Las Vegas' most luxurious casino resorts including the Bellagio, Steve Wynn put his own name on this new property, the largest privately-funded construction project in the United States.

(bottom)

#### Fashion Show Mall

Across from the Wynn Las Vegas is Fashion Show Mall with 250 shops and restaurants along with larger department stores like Saks, Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's Home. Shoppers enjoy fashion shows every weekend.

(opposite)

#### Wynn Esplanade

On the grounds of the Wynn Las Vegas, one of The Strip's most exclusive resorts, is a fabulous shopping esplanade that easily rivals the designer boutiques on Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive.







(top)

#### Aladdin's Lamp on Fremont Street

This golden lamp was a signature neon sign for the original Aladdin Hotel in 1966. Within a year of its grand opening, the hotel made headlines when it hosted Elvis and Priscilla Presley's wedding.

(bottom, left)

#### Cupid's Wedding Chapel

The sign claims its place in Vegas' neon history, beckoning romantics to tie the knot. Cupid's Wedding Chapel is one of the many chapels located in the downtown area.

(bottom, right)

#### Andy The Milkman

During the 1950's, Andy Anderson was the mascot of Anderson Dairy, a dairy that delivered milk to many Las Vegas doorsteps. The loveable neon icon was restored and found a new home on Fremont Street.



(left)

#### Shooting Stars

A fixed-light canopy above Fremont Street is the stage for sizzling light shows with millions of colors and the ability to instantly switch from a swirling ocean setting to a patriotic stars-and-stripes salute to freedom.



(right)

#### A Single Drop of Water

Crowds are mesmerized by the Fremont Street Experience light shows. The mid-night show, *The Drop*, is a psychedelic, underwater adventure of mythical images that evolve from a single drop of water.



#### Flamingo Las Vegas

The lavish Flamingo hotel, with its bright neon signs, is home to Second City Comedy Club, a favorite with locals and tourists. Lush gardens, waterfalls, and wildlife create a cool Vegas experience.



#### Hacienda Horse and Rider

This famous, neon sign was created for the Hacienda Hotel in 1967, back in the "old Vegas days." After a private donor paid to have it restored, it became the first sign displayed at the Fremont Street Experience.





#### Sassy Sally at Glitter Gulch

Sassy Sally, the high-kicking, neon cow-girl, was originally named for the club below her. She recently "married" the city's most famous neon sign, Vegas Vic and changed her name to Vegas Vicky.





#### Colorado Belle Hotel

On the banks of the Colorado River in Laughlin, Nevada, this unique resort is a replica of a 19th-century Mississippi Paddlewheel riverboat. Inside is a spacious gaming casino and over 1000 hotel rooms.



(above)

#### **Circus Circus Hotel**

A kid-friendly Las Vegas hotel, world-renowned Circus Circus features live circus acts and clowns who perform every half-hour. The fun continues at Adventure Dome, the hotel's indoor theme park, the only one on the Strip.

(opposite)

#### **Fremont Street Experience**

Fremont Street Experience is where the old Las Vegas and the new Las Vegas come together. At ground level, visitors browse shops sporting some of the city's best-known neon signs such as Glitter Gulch and Vegas Vic. Ninety feet above

ground is a \$70-million illuminated canopy that comes to life every hour with Vegas' biggest light and sound show. The six-to-nine-minute shows highlight everything from Sin City's classic icons to alien and NASCAR themes.





(above)

#### **Gamblers General Store**

The Gamblers General Store is a gamblers' paradise packed with new and antique slot machines, gaming tables, Vegas photos and an extensive book collection.

(opposite)

#### **"Little Duke" Antique Slots**

The Riverside Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada has an impressive collection of antique gambling machines. A 1932 Jennings "Little Duke" is unique—it told fortunes, dispensed gum and paid jackpots, all for a penny.





You'll fall in  
love with  
it and win!

Save a  
penny from  
me!

You'll take a  
penny with  
you!

A penny  
can buy  
you a lot!

A penny  
can buy  
you a lot!

A penny  
can buy  
you a lot!

### ONE CENT PLAY

FOLLOWING COMBINATIONS PAY REWARDS AS SHOWN BELOW

2	4	8	12	16	20													

W. & B. Reserve Bank, Inc. 100 N. 1st St. St. Louis, Mo. 63102. All other symbols and numbers are paid in exact accordance with the National Standard. If any other symbols and numbers are used, the machine is not a National Standard.

RESERVE

J.P.

NO. 1

NO. 2



(above and opposite)

#### Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum

Madame Tussaud's at the Venetian Hotel, offers an incredible interactive experience where visitors can create memories with famous celebrities, politicians or athletes. Marry George Clooney, play tennis with Andre Agassi,

or play poker with Ben Affleck. The museum has over one-hundred, intricately designed wax replicas such as Elvis Presley, Bugsy Siegel and Marilyn Monroe.







(above)

#### Mr. Las Vegas

Singer Wayne Newton has packed the house in Las Vegas for decades with avid fans, epitomizing top-quality entertainment in this razzle-dazzle city. As an entertainer, he is known for "giving it everything he's got."

(opposite)

#### Liberace Museum

His legend lives on in these collections of his famously bejeweled and sequined costumes, jewelry, antique pianos and furniture and classic cars. Decades after his death in 1987, "Mr. Showmanship" continues to entertain.





(top)

#### **Gameworlds**

No ordinary game arcade, Las Vegas' Gameworlds is a special breed with a 75-foot-tall rock climbing structure and an entire section devoted to racing, including Indy 500 and NASCAR, WaveRunners and ATV's.

(bottom)

#### **The Riviera**

One of the city's longest running shows, Splash, is now gone—it's beautiful neon sign graced The Strip for decades—now an example of Sin City's disappearing history. The Riviera is still home to some of the most popular shows in Las Vegas.

(opposite)

#### **Big Shot at The Stratosphere Hotel**

High atop the second tallest structure in the United States, over one-hundred stories above ground, thrill seekers can test their nerve on the world's three, highest rides: the Big Shot, XScream and Insanity the Ride.







#### Harley-Davidson Café

On display at the Harley-Davidson Café are twenty vintage Harleys along with celebrity memorabilia. It's all part of the full-throttle celebration of the hundred-year history of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company.





(top)

#### NASCAR Café

A popular venue for racing enthusiasts, the NASCAR Café combines hearty American foods with two levels of NASCAR racing projected on giant screens, dozens of authentic NASCAR stock cars, and their famous Carzila bar.

(bottom)

#### NASCAR 300 Race

The action is always hot and fast at the NASCAR 300 track where fans are passionate and the sport has its own colorful language. *Donuts*, *bushwhackers*, *the groove*, and *pancaked* are terms that would stump most outsiders.



*(above)*

#### **Indoor Skydiving**

Defy gravity and "body fly" at Flyaway Indoor Skydiving, America's first vertical wind tunnel. This unique facility is popular with sport skydivers, competition teams, military units, and thrill-seeking tourists.

*(opposite)*

#### **Hot Air Balloon**

Greet the sunrise in a hot air balloon and float with the wind, high over the dazzling skyline of the Vegas strip. Take in the quiet beauty of the desert and the dramatic terrain of Red Rock Canyon.







*(above and right)*

#### **M&M's World on The Strip**

The city of temptations satisfies the world's craving for chocolate with this sugary monument to an American classic. Located in the Showcase Mall, M&M World has four floors of retail space devoted to this candy-coated confection.

*(opposite)*

#### **Las Vegas Arts District**

Colors flow from a larger-than-life paint tube, perched upon a rooftop in the Las Vegas Arts District. The district boasts the Art Factory, where there are more galleries in one place than anywhere else in Las Vegas.







(top)

#### Humble Beginnings

Mark Jenkins' mural *Humble Beginnings*, celebrates the long-running Cirque du Soleil show. The brightly painted mural is one of several that decorate the arts district

(bottom)

#### First Friday

First Friday is a monthly celebration in the Downtown Arts District, attended by over 10,000 locals and tourists. It is a popular venue where artists display their works, and break dancers entertain the crowds.



#### The Sopranos' Last Supper

The popular comedic-musical spoof of HBO's Emmy-award-winning show plays at the Aladdin Hotel. The interactive dinner theater serves up a great show along with authentic Italian cuisine.



#### Les Folies Bergere

The longest running show in Las Vegas, this French-revue-style musical extravaganza attracts standing-room-only crowds with comedy, singing, dancing and statuesque showgirls high-kicking the classic *Can-Can* or gyrating to a

steamy, Latin Mambo beat. The glamorous Folies is a true Las Vegas legend at the Tropicana Resort Casino and attracts 40,000 fans every month.



#### An Evening at La Cage

The longest running headliner in Las Vegas, Frank Marino plays Joan Rivers as the sharp-tongued emcee of an incredible cast of female impersonators. The show at the Riviera Hotel and Casino packs the house with its diva salute.



(above)

#### Chinatown Plaza

A beautifully crafted, traditional Chinese arch frames the entrance and sets the mood for the treasures and experiences within this nationally acclaimed cultural center for China and other Pan-Asian countries.

(left)

#### Chinese Lion Dancers

A brightly costumed lion dancer from the Lohan School of Shoalin entertains at Las Vegas' annual celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The event celebrates Asian culture through ethnic music, dance and foods.





#### Journey to The West

Chinatown celebrates its culture with *Journey to the West*, a statue that depicts the four characters of the classic 16th-century Chinese novel and their adventurous journey to India to obtain Buddhist religious texts.



(top)

#### **Lee & Thomas Beam Music Center**

The new music center is the fourth building on UNLV's campus to be privately funded by the generous philanthropy of the Beam family. It features a recital hall, library, recording studio, rehearsal and practice rooms.

(bottom)

#### **Sahara West Library**

The Sahara West Library building is also home to the Las Vegas Art Museum, the state's first fine arts museum. Founded in 1950 as the Las Vegas Art League, the museum specializes in collecting and exhibiting contemporary art.



#### Las Vegas Art Museum

A Smithsonian affiliate, the Las Vegas Art Museum has showcased internationally renowned artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, August Rodin, Dale Chihuly and Marc Chagall.



#### Mormon Temple

Dedicated in December of 1989 by Gordon B. Hinckley, the pure-white stone temple, with its spectacular gold-capped spires, is visible for miles across the Las Vegas valley. Located on over ten acres at the base of Sunrise

Mountain, the structure of over 80,000 square feet has more than 190 rooms and is the 43rd operating temple of the Church of Latter Day Saints.



(top)

#### Shadow Hills Baptist Church

The stunning modern architecture of the Shadow Hills Baptist Church uses soft desert colors to harmonize with its environment. Inside, the spacious Worship Center provides a theater-like experience with 1,750 seats.

(bottom)

#### Little Church of the West

The Little Church of the West Wedding Chapel opened in 1942 on an isolated stretch of highway that later became the Las Vegas Strip. It is speculated that there are over 300 weddings per day in the city of Las Vegas.





#### Las Vegas Convention Center

This 3.2 million square foot facility has twice the exhibit space of New York's convention center. Operated by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), it is one of the most modern and versatile facilities in the world.



#### Lied Library

The gracefully curved metal façade of UNLV's newest library reflects a golden desert sunset. With a million-volume collection, Lied is pure state-of-the-art with 2,500 study spaces and over three-hundred computer workstations.





*(above and opposite)*

**Clark County Government Center**

Inspired by the spectacular desert landscape, Clark County Government Center is sheathed in a red-rock, terracotta sandstone exterior. It is one of the most dramatic non-casino structures in Las Vegas. The spacious government center

features a multi-story central rotunda and a pyramid structure that houses the cafeteria and an amphitheater for concerts, fairs, and other public events.







(opposite)

#### **Lied Discovery Children's Museum**

Nationally acclaimed for the quality of its programs, the museum features interactive exhibits that make learning about the arts, sciences and humanities pure fun. Its mission is to ignite a love of lifelong learning.

(above)

#### **The Rainbow Library**

The whimsical design of this Las Vegas library holds the promise of wonderful adventures inside. Outside, a 1,200-seat auditorium hosts live performances of music, dance, and drama.



(above)

#### Clark County Heritage Museum

Inside this adobe-style museum are millions of years of Nevada history, beginning with the Pleistocene era. Visit a gold mine, ancient Anasazi and Paiute camps, and 1950's casinos.

(left)

#### Boulder City Depot, Heritage Museum

Heritage Street is an exciting outdoor exhibit featuring authentic, historic buildings such as the 1931 depot from Boulder City, Nevada, complete with authentic equipment, furnishings, a 1944 caboose and 1922 box car.



(above)

#### **American History Preserved**

A path behind the Boulder City Depot leads to outdoor exhibits of authentic Nevada history, including a ghost town, mining equipment and vintage vehicles such as this once-covered wagon.

(right)

#### **Ghost Town Blacksmith Shop**

Amidst sagebrush and tumbleweeds, the Heritage Museum's outdoor Ghost Town is an eerie testimony to a place that time forgot, with its general store, jail and vintage 1900 blacksmith shop, complete with grinding wheel.





(top)

#### Montelago Village Resort

With the desert and mountains as a backdrop, this Mediterranean-style luxury resort is centered around Lake Las Vegas and offers first-class dining, shopping, golfing, entertainment and gaming seventeen miles from The Strip.



(bottom)

#### Lake Mead Marina

A reservoir created by the Hoover and Davis dams in the 1930's, Lake Mead was the world's largest artificial lake at that time. The center of the Lake Mead National Recreational Area, it offers many activities in and out of the water.





#### Life at The Lakes

Directly west of The Strip, The Lakes is an older Las Vegas community built around a centerpiece of lakes. With a mixture of attractive houses and condominiums, this picturesque lakeside community is convenient to everything.





(top)

#### Hoover Dam

Hoover Dam, built in 1937 on the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona, provides essential irrigation, flood control and electrical power to Southern California, Arizona and Nevada.

(bottom)

#### Hoover Dam Visitor Center

The tour begins at the Visitors Center, with panoramic views from the observation deck. Inside, multimedia exhibits explain the dam's history and an elevator takes riders five-hundred feet down the Black Canyon wall.



#### **An Engineering Marvel**

When completed, the Hoover Dam was the largest in the world with a massive wall of concrete over six hundred feet thick and over seven hundred feet high. It was voted one of the Seven Modern Engineering Wonders in America.



#### Winged Figures of Republic

On the Nevada side of the Hoover Dam, two winged figures rising thirty feet high from a black base, flank a fourteen-story-tall flagpole. The figures honor the enormous human and scientific accomplishment of building the dam.



#### Cruising Lake Mead

Breathtaking views of Hoover Dam, lake islands, and the stunning Arizona Paint Pots abound while cruising the deep-blue waters of America's largest man-made lake on *Desert Princess*, a 300-passenger paddlewheeler.



#### Antique Car

Time and the elements transform an antique automobile into an interesting desert spectacle. Decades of rust and a hardy, prickly pear cactus sprouting from a silent engine, add color and texture to this long neglected vehicle.





#### **Saguaro in Bloom**

Nevada's Mojave Desert is home to two-hundred plant species not found in neighboring deserts. The saguaro cactus, the largest in America, grows throughout southern Nevada, Arizona and Mexico



#### Howard Hughes' Spring Mountain Ranch

Billionaire Howard Hughes was just one of several celebrities with homes at Spring Mountain in Red Rock Canyon. Visitors can tour his quaint, 1950's ranch house, surrounded by white fences and panoramic views.



#### The Christensen Castle

This 1932 fairytale house, with its distinctive tower and rock facing, was built by Lucretia Tanner Christensen Stevens, an African-American whose ancestry included a Mormon blacksmith and Las Vegas railroad workers.



#### Snow Mountain Pow Wow

The annual Snow Mountain Pow Wow, a meeting and dance competition of different tribes, is held on the Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Nation land. It is a vivid introduction to the culture and traditions of Native American people.





#### Sioux Red Fox Mask

An evocative mask by noted Navajo artist, La Ne Ayo, captures the beauty and drama of Native American traditions. The Snow Mountain Pow Wow is a treasure trove of authentic Native American crafts and artifacts.





(left)

#### International Food and Folklife Festival

A Hawaiian dancer is part of the International Food and Folklife Festival, a unique cultural event where over thirty countries are showcased with ethnic foods and music and dance performances.

(right)

#### Friends of India Dancer

Sway to the hypnotic beat of flamenco dancing, African drums, Indian sitars, and the swirling colors of authentic, native costumes from the Pacific Rim, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf of Mexico at this exciting Vegas festival.



**Cinco de Mayo at Freedom Park**

Cinco De Mayo is a Mexican holiday that commemorates the Mexican militia's victory over the French army at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. Like many American cities, Las Vegas celebrates with fabulous cultural festivities.



#### Las Vegas Paiute Nation Dancer

Historic Springs Preserve hosts an annual Cultural fair in May celebrating the music, crafts, and foods of the diverse ethnic heritage of Las Vegas.



#### Dragon Boat Racing

Climb aboard a Chinese war canoe with twenty paddlers, a drummer and a steersman at this annual boat racing event at Lake Las Vegas. Win or lose, dragon boat racing is an exciting team experience.



(above and left)

#### Clark County Fair and Rodeo

Packed with plenty of thrills, chills and painful spills, the Pro Rodeo in Logandale showcases the superstars of bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle bronc'ing, tie-downs, barrel racing and bull riding.

(opposite)

#### Spring Mountain Ranch

Named for its natural springs, this 520-acre state park in the magnificent Red Rock Canyon area was once a working ranch and luxurious retreat for colorful celebrities. Billionaire tycoon Howard Hughes was it's last private owner.







#### Bonnie Springs Old Nevada Trail Ride

The "Wild West" at Old Nevada, is a faithful replica of an 1880's mining town with saloons, stagecoaches, and gunfights. On a trail ride, explore the stunning beauty of southwest canyon country.



*(top)*

#### **Great Basin National Park**

North of the neon-desert landscape of Las Vegas is Great Basin National Park, a remote and relatively new park with limestone caverns, mountains, an Ice-Age glacier, and varied desert wildlife and vegetation.

*(bottom)*

#### **Great Basin Mule Deer**

Abundant wildlife in this isolated park thrive amidst a variety of vegetation that gradually changes from the sparseness of the desert to the dense bristlecone pine forests, alpine lakes and meadows one mile higher.



(top)

#### **Wildlife Crossing**

Wildlife road signs along desert roads warn drivers to be on the lookout for jack rabbits, desert cottontails and, especially, the endangered desert tortoise.

(bottom)

#### **Nevada Desert Tortoise**

The state reptile of Nevada, the beloved desert tortoise is protected as an endangered species. If a tortoise survives its fragile hatching days, it can live up to one hundred years, spending most of its life underground.

(opposite)

#### **Wild Burro at Red Rock Canyon**

Spanish colonists originally introduced burros to the American Southwest in the 1500's. Known for being sure-footed and able to carry heavy burdens for days, wild burros run in packs all over the Nevada deserts.









(top)

#### Extraterrestrial Highway

A sign on this 98-mile highway sports a speed limit of Warp 7. Close to the federal government's infamous Area 51, the stretch became known as Extraterrestrial Highway, due to many UFO sightings along the desolate road.

(bottom)

#### Close Encounters

The city of Rachel is the only town on this remote highway and a welcome stop for travelers who want to explore the local alien obsession. One restaurant claims that its hamburgers are "out of this world."



*(above)*

#### **Las Vegas Paiute Golf Course**

Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort at Snow Mountain is on Native American land at the base of the Spring Mountain range. Designed by Pete Dye, its challenging courses blend into the natural high-desert scenery.

*(following page)*

#### **Wheeler Mountain**

Wheeler Mountain at Great Basin National Park boasts a breathtaking desert panorama from 13,000 feet. A detour on a loop trail leads to the last Ice Age glacier in the Snake Mountain Range.









#### Grand Canyon, Toroweap Overlook

The view from the northwest rim of the Grand Canyon is almost overwhelming, overlooking a 3000-foot drop to the Colorado River, carving its way through the canyon. Volcanic cinder cones and lava flows make this view unique.





(top)

#### **Red Rock Canyon**

Rising high above a landscape of desert plants and Joshua trees is a spectacular mountain range with deep ravines and massive cliffs striped with grey, white and red sandstone rock, one of three red rock areas in Nevada.

(bottom)

#### **Lehman Caves at Great Basin**

In the cool, dark world of Lehman Caves, the year-round temperature is a chilly fifty degrees. The intricate shapes of marble and limestone formations are astounding.



*(above and opposite)*

#### **Valley of Fire, Nevada State Park**

As the sun sets in the Valley of Fire, sandstone cliffs glow a brilliant, deep red. The striking contrast of the surrounding black hills and the sparkling blue waters of distant Lake Mead create a unique landscape. The other-worldly

terrain is patterned with rocks of various interesting shapes and sizes, occasional fossilized tree trunks and petrified sand dunes called "The Beehives."





#### **Sculpted by Nature**

The relentless movement of ancient winds and waters 150 million years ago created remarkable red-rock formations. Over time, these erosive forces sculpted fanciful, odd-angled shapes and secret passages into the limestone cliffs.



#### **Desert Clouds at Sunset**

When the beauty of the Valley of Fire beckons, visitors can come for the day and hike the scenic trails, linger longer to view a fiery sunset, or camp out and fall asleep counting stars and listening to the quiet murmurings of the desert.







*(opposite and above)*

**Ethel M Chocolate Botanical Garden**

For a sweet desert treat, tour a chocolate factory and a botanical cactus garden, both owned by the creator of M&Ms. The garden showcases desert ornamentals, flowering Palos Verdes trees, cacti and other succulents.



(top)

#### **Gardens at Las Vegas Springs Preserve**

White mesquite blossoms at the Preserve's desert botanical gardens. The Preserve is dedicated to showcasing and protecting the old, natural springs that first attracted travelers and settlers to Las Vegas.

(bottom)

#### **Death Valley in Bloom**

Unusually heavy rainfall in Death Valley creates a once-in-a-lifetime explosion of desert flowers such as this vivid scarlet globemallow which grows in open areas throughout much of west-central United States.

(opposite)

#### **Blue Indigo at Red Rock Canyon**

A beautiful decoration in any landscape, the indigo flower is said to have healing, spiritual properties. When infused with water to create an "essence," it brings the light of clear seeing or inner sight to problem areas.











*(opposite)*

#### **Prickly Pear Cactus Blooms**

In late spring and early summer, the prickly pear cactus blooms in Springs Preserve, with vivid yellow, orange, pink and red flowers. When the blooms fade, the sweet fruits are eaten fresh or made into delicious prickly pear jellies.

*(above)*

#### **Snow Rose**

A rare, high-desert snow fall frosts an unsuspecting yellow rose. By noon, the warm desert sun will melt away the rose's little cap of snow.



Photo by David Sanger

### Randa Bishop

From Australia to Zimbabwe, Randa Bishop has photographed in over 60 countries and 50 islands throughout the world. She has particularly large color archives of Canada, Greece, Mexico, the Caribbean and Las Vegas.

Her travel images are in leading American and international magazines and newspapers, including *National Geographic Society* publications, *Odyssey, Travel & Leisure, Geo, Los Angeles Times*, and *Junior Scholastic*. Her feature stories cover a wide variety of subjects from solar-powered airplanes to young children learning how to be astronauts.

She has been honored by Kodak's "Professional Photographer's Showcase Award" with her work exhibited at Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida, and her work was included in *Ten Thousand Eyes*, a book celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Photography.

She had solo-exhibitions in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Greece. Her solar plane photos were exhibited in the Smithsonian Institute, and a selection of images are on permanent display in the Periyali Restaurant in New York, at the Boyce & Gianni law firm in Las Vegas, and at the Scala Hotel in Patmos, Greece.

A New York City native, she has spent the last decade in Las Vegas. Randa is a member of the Travel Journalists Guild and the American Society of Media Photographers. Her portfolio and stock images can be viewed at [www.randabishop.com](http://www.randabishop.com).







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### About the Writers

Francesca and Duncan Yates are award-winning writers in publishing, script writing and advertising. Duncan is an anthologized poet and recipient of the Shakespeare Fellowship at Oxford University. Together, the Yates have written several books in Twin Lights Publishers' Photographic Portrait series, including *Seattle*, *San Francisco*, *New York*, *Los Angeles*, *Houston*, *Boulder*, *Annapolis* and *Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill*.









From the biggest resorts and casinos on "The Strip", to the breathtaking views of Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and Red Rock Canyon, Las Vegas is a place unlike any other.

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